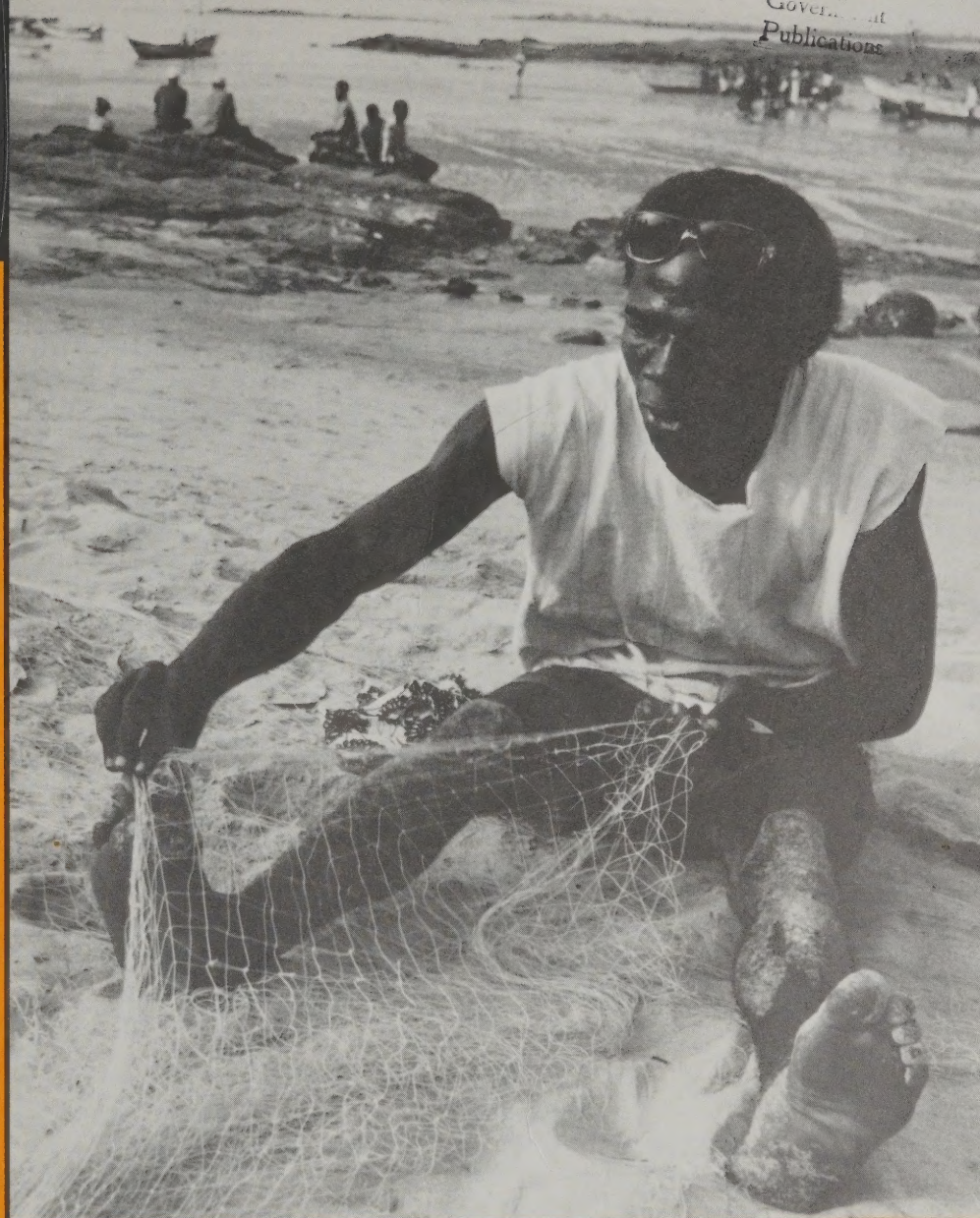


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Publications



Country Profile

Guinea

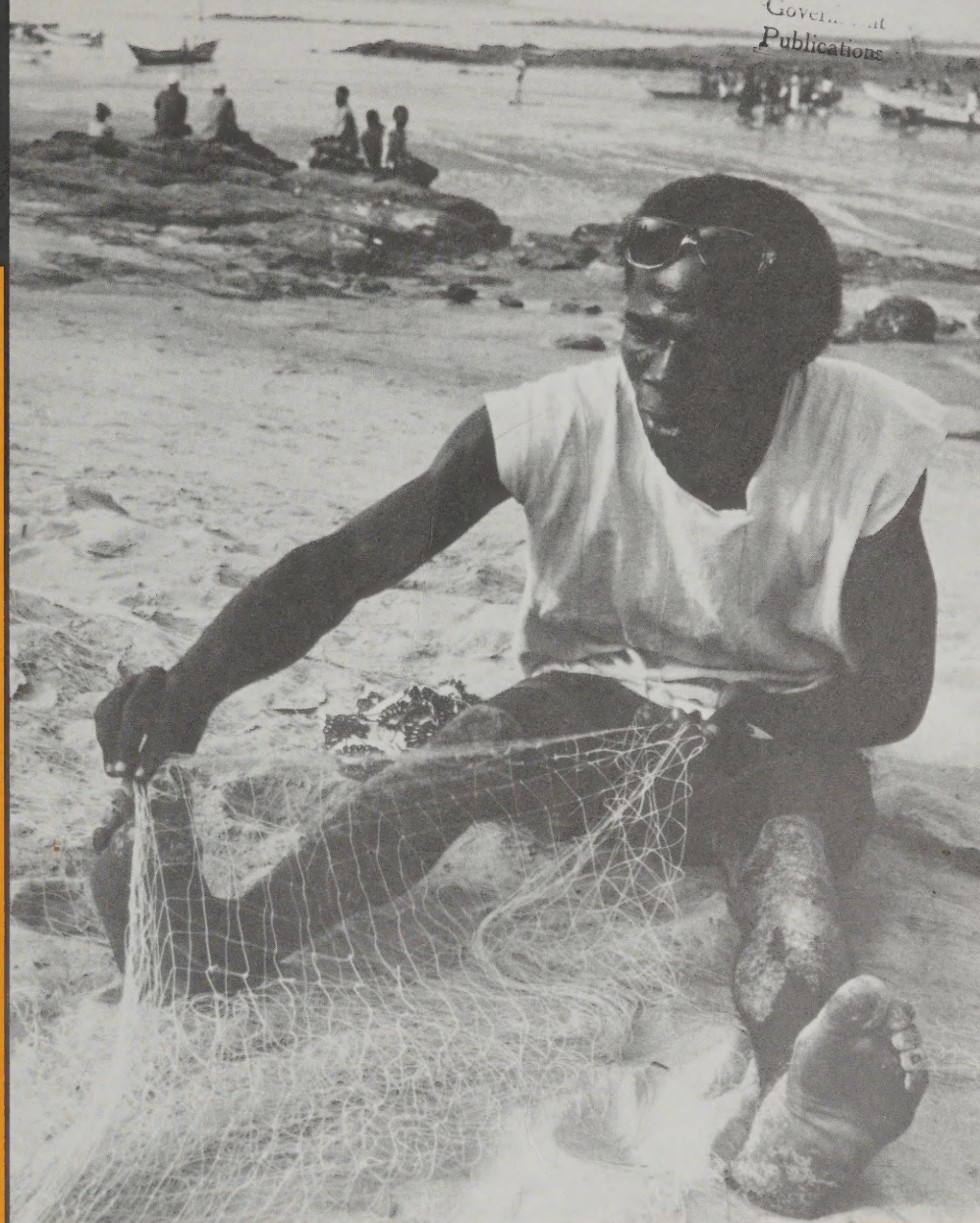
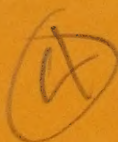
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Country Profile

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COUNTRY PROFILE

Official Name	Republic of Guinea
Capital	Conakry
Topography	varying relief, four natural regions: coastal plain, plateaus, valleys and mountains, forested region
Principal crops	rice, tapioca, sweet potatoes, groundnuts, oilseeds
Resources	mines (bauxite, aluminum, diamonds), fishing, tropical woods
Climate	tropical: hot and humid
Official language	French
Other languages spoken	Poullar, Malinké, Soussou, Kissi, Guerzé, Toma, Conaqui, Bassari
Ethnic groups	Malinké, Bambara, Peul, Toucouleur, Soussous, Baga, Nalou and others
Religions	Islam (75%), animism, Christianity
Date of Independence	October 2, 1958,

<u>Comparative Data</u>	<u>Guinea</u>	<u>Canada</u>
Area	245,857 km ²	9,976,139 km ²
Population (1983)	5.8 million	24.9 million
Population density	21.5 persons/km ²	2.4 persons/km ²
Urbanization (1983)	26%	75%
Population growth rate (1973-1983)	2%	1.2%
Life expectancy at birth	37 years	76 years
Infant mortality	158/1000 live births	9/1000 live births
Daily per capita calorie consumption as % of requirement	86%	129%
Adult literacy rate	5%	99%
Primary school enrolment (1982) as % of age group:		
total	33%	104%
boys	44%	105%
girls	22%	103%
Labor force in:		
agriculture	82%	5%
industry	11%	29%
services	7%	66%
% of population under 15	43.8%	23.2%
GNP/capita (1983)	US\$300	US\$12,310
Annual growth in GNP (1965-1983)	1.1%	2.5%
Annual inflation rate (1973-1983)	4%	9.4%
External public debt as % of GNP (1983)	69.2%	1.35%
Current account balance	-	US\$1,380 million

Principal exports: aluminum, bauxite, pineapples
Principal imports: petroleum products, foodstuffs
Exports to Canada: bauxite
Imports from Canada: wheat flour, preserved fish, fertilizer, aluminum products, transport equipment, prefabricated structures and buildings
Principal commercial partners:
France, United States, Italy, Cameroon, Spain,
Federal Republic of Germany

Source: World Development Report, 1985, World Bank.

COUNTRY PROGRAM

Retrospective

In May, 1981, Guinea became a CIDA core country, making it eligible to receive bilateral assistance. Before that time, CIDA's activities in Guinea had been limited and short-term. However, two projects deserve mention: the study of the Trans-Guinean railway and the fishing boat motorization project.

Since 1981, the Canadian government has carried out numerous missions in Guinea and, in 1982, Canada opened a diplomatic mission in Conakry. That same year, a major CIDA multi-sectoral mission was sent to Guinea to assess the country's resources and needs and to develop a strategy for involvement in the various sectors. The mission report was used as the basis for a policy paper, which was later developed in more detail following the visit of President Sékou Touré to Canada in November 1982.

The three major objectives of the Canadian program in Guinea are:

- to meet the urgent need for equipment, basic commodities, services and training;
- to help reduce the balance of payments deficit;
- to improve the mutual knowledge of the two countries in order to open the door for greater economic cooperation.

Core Sectors and Transfer Facilities

CIDA's activities in Guinea are concentrated in three sectors: domestic air transportation, energy and planning and management capabilities.

In addition to these core-sector activities, a number of transfer facilities permit short-term activities in various other sectors, such as housing, agriculture, health care, cottage industries and larger industry. A \$5 million line of credit has been established for the purchase of Canadian goods and services, including basic commodities, to be used primarily for the development of the construction industry and agriculture. The resale of Canadian goods creates a counterpart fund to cover local costs of Canada-Guinea projects. Small projects are also supported by a fund administered by the Canadian Embassy; approximately \$1 million has been disbursed since 1982.

Two deliveries of food aid have also been received at Conakry in the spring of 1984 and again in 1985. This assistance consisted of wheat and canola oil, amounting to \$1 million each year.

Technical assistance bolsters the planning and management capabilities of Guinean public agencies through the assignment of four to six advisors in various government ministries, including the Energy, Fishing, Planning and Statistics ministries.

CIDA has provided twenty scholarship years in Canada and fifty scholarship years in the Third World (\$1.5 million between 1984 and 1989). These scholarship years are designed to support the technical

and administrative capabilities of Guinean public institutions in the core sectors of CIDA's program and to reinforce Guinea's regional integration.

In cooperation with the World Bank and the European Economic Community, some \$1.3 million has been awarded to the Ministry of Small Business and Cottage Industries to help promote small business and train Guinean personnel.

Special aid was granted to Guinea in 1983 to reconstruct community service buildings which were destroyed by the earthquake that devastated the Koumbia region.

In the infrastructure field, CIDA's activities are in the energy and air transportation sectors. The Société nationale d'électricité (SNE) project provides financing (\$4.9 million) for procurement services, project supervisory services and ad hoc expertise, the purchase of parts and equipment, the construction of a warehouse, and training.

A \$21.6 million contribution to the Guinean civil aviation sector has provided for the purchase of a DASH-7 and spare parts from Canada. Part of this contribution also provided for Canadian technical assistance to develop an aircraft, construct a maintenance hangar, upgrade secondary runways and improve air safety in Guinea.

Under the sponsorship of the World Bank, a Canadian firm is preparing a Master Plan for the construction of a hydroelectric power station in Guinea. CIDA will be examining opportunities for participation in the project after a donors' meeting.

Efforts have also been made in the area of business cooperation. A number of projects have already been identified. Two are of particular interest: assistance in developing regulations for a new mining code and the promotion of investment opportunities in the Guinean mining sector in bauxite, iron ore, diamonds and gold.

Since 1982, funds from CIDA's Special Programs Branch have been used to finance various cooperative activities in agriculture, mining, education, air transportation and housing. Nearly \$1 million has been awarded to Canadian non-profit organizations and societies to enable them to undertake assistance or pre-investment missions in Guinea.


Other than a special contribution of \$40,000 to the International Red Cross to provide disaster relief in Koumbia in January 1984 (following an earthquake which totally destroyed 16 villages), it is impossible to determine the amount and form of Canadian contributions channelled to Guinea through international financial institutions. However, it should be noted that most of the multilateral agencies to which CIDA contributes are active in Guinea, notably the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Program (WFP).

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